

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /037 W

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R 162049Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9856

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 4916

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI

SUBJECT: INQUIRY REGARDING HUGO BEHM

REF: STATE 173857

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY DR. BEHM'S WIFE AND DAUGHTER THAT HE WAS ARRESTED AT HIS HOME BY MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AT 11:30 PM ON JULY 31. FAMILY TOLD ONLY THAT HE HAD BEEN "DENOUNCED."

2. SINCE ARREST FAMILY HAS BEEN UNABLE OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING BEHM. INQUIRIES AT SECRETARIAT FOR DETAINEES, MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND REQUESTS FOR AMPARO (HABEAS CORPUS) FILED WITH SANTIAGO APPEALS COURT HAVE ELICITED ONLY SUGGESTIONS THAT FAMILY INQUIRE AGAIN IN 15 TO 30 DAYS.

3. PATTERN THIS ARREST IS NOT UNUSUAL. SECURITY AGENCIES GENERALLY HOLD PERSONS ARRESTED IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR SOME TIME FOR INTERROGATION BEFORE NOTIFYING DETAINEES OFFICE, ETC.

4. DR. BEHM'S DAUGHTER TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE KNOWN AS "PROGRESSIVE" AT UNIV. CHILE AND SUSPENDED FROM POST AFTER SEPT 11 COUP. INVESTIGATION BY UNIV AUTHORITIES EVIDENTLY CLEARED HIM AND HE ALLOWED NORMAL RETIREMENT (HE IS AGE 61) AND FREEDOM TRAVEL TO ARGENTINA IN MARCH 1974 FOR CONFERENCE. FAMILY PROFESSES NOT TO KNOW WHY HE IS NOW OF INTEREST TO

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SECURITY AUTHORITIES.

5. ACCORDING DAUGHTER, BEHM HAD SEVERAL OFFERS OF POSITIONS OUTSIDE CHILE AFTER COUP BUT DECLINED TO LEAVE.

6. BASED ON EXPERIENCE, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE APPROACH TO GOC ON BEHM WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. HOWEVER, IF WE WERE TO RECEIVE FROM JOHNS HOPKINS A LETTER OF INVITATION TO TEACH, WE WOULD OF COURSE FORWARD IT TO CHILEAN AUTHORITIES.
POPPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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